

## **Allotment Warden Brief**

### **Introduction**

B-w-L Parish Council has five allotment plots, one each in Eastcombe and Bisley (the Chestergate allotments) and three in Oakridge/Far Oakridge. The allotments in Eastcombe and Oakridge are owned by the Parish Council, the Chestergate Allotments in Bisley are leased to the Parish Council for an annual rent from the Charity of the Ancient Parish of Bisley. The Parish Council is a member of the National Allotment Society and in matter of debate will refer to them for guidance and support. The Parish Council supports approximately 150 allotment tenancies.

The Parish Council declared a climate emergency/nature recovery in 2019. The Parish Council recognises that the quality of the soil on allotments can contribute to climate mitigation, allotments can be important reserves for wildlife, and that allotments can provide health and wellbeing, company, and solace and support for many people, particularly those who are more vulnerable.

### **Description**

The Allotment Warden is a volunteer role undertaken locally within the Parish. Their volunteer role contributing to the smooth running of the allotments is appreciated by the Parish Council. They are experienced allotment gardeners and will usually have an allotment themselves. The volunteer allotment wardens, one for each village settlement within the Parish, are a contact and support for allotment tenants but also monitor the allotment plots. Wherever possible opportunities for training the Allotment Wardens will be encouraged by the Parish Council to support their knowledge and facilitate information on allotments to be available to the community. They liaise closely with the Parish Clerk.

### **Remit**

- Be first point of contact for all tenants and helping with any issue, problems or difficulties where possible.
- Give advice on growing, where possible, to tenants and be as responsive as appropriate and possible to their needs<sup>1</sup>.

---

<sup>1</sup> For example: The Bisley Community Compost scheme grew from a request from allotment tenants wanting more and better locally available compost. The Bisley Allotment Compost Loo was also response to a local demand from woman tenants. The Eastcombe wildflower area was a response to addressing an unsightly tip on the allotment site.

- Be first point of contact for applications for an allotment plot or for tenants wishing to relinquish their plot.
- Show prospective tenants the available plots and advice on appropriate size of plot depending on experience.
- Keep a waiting list of residents wanting plots.
- Monitor the cultivation of plots and advise tenants of the cultivation standards that are defined in the tenancy agreement. The allotment warden will be fair in their assessment and judge whether there are mitigating circumstances if a tenant is not keeping up the cultivation of their plot. However, the cultivation standards as defined by the NAS<sup>2</sup> and by the tenancy agreement are important. The Allotment Warden will discuss with the Parish Clerk whether a formal warning will be issued.
- Identify problems that might arise such as fencing, mowing, use of water, theft, the welfare of any livestock, and any other tenancy agreement issue or dispute, and liaise with the tenants and Parish Council to help address such problems.
- Help publicise allotment growing locally and where appropriate more widely.
- Generally, help encourage, promote and champion a wider understanding of allotments in relation to the Parish Council's support of self-sufficiency and food security i.e. "growing your own", the Parish Council's declared climate emergency, nature recovery and biodiversity.

The Allotment Wardens are insured under the Parish Council Public Liability insurance for their volunteering work.

The list of the village area Parish Allotment Wardens can be found on the website under Ward roles:  
<https://bisley-with-lypiatt.gov.uk/council-members/>

---

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.nsalg.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/NAS-108-Policy-Document-CULTIVATION-STANDARDS.pdf>